



Media Guide 2000



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Kim Gamble, Director of Operations

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the inaugural season of the Ottawa Fury Women's Soccer Team. The Ottawa Fury will be bringing women's elite soccer, for the first time, on a regular basis, to the Eastern Ontario region.

As the Director of Operations and a former soccer player, it is very exciting to have the

experience of bringing the United Soccer Leagues' W-league, the highest level of women's soccer in North America, to the Nation's Capital.

As an organization and a team, we look forward to the new challenges that the U.S.L.'s W-league will provide for us.

The Ottawa Fury will provide an opportunity for young women in the area to see women's soccer at its best. The Fury will also be creating an opportunity for aspiring young Fury players, and we hope to be a part of their development, as they are our future.

In closing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the fans and supporters of the Ottawa Fury.

OTTAWA FURY 2000 W-1 League Schedule

Date	Teams	Time (EST)
Sat May 13	Laval @ OTTAWA	4:00 pm
Fri May 19	OTTAWA @ Rochester	8:00 pm
Sun May 28	Boston @ OTTAWA	2:00 pm
Sat June 3	OTTAWA @ Springfield	7:30 pm
Sun June 4	OTTAWA @ New Hampshire	7:30 pm
Sat June 10	OTTAWA @ Laval	7:30 pm
Fri June 16	OTTAWA @ Toronto	7:30 pm
Sun June 18	New Jersey LS @ OTTAWA	2:00 pm
Fri June 23	Rochester @ OTTAWA	6:00 pm
Sat June 24	Toronto @ OTTAWA	4:00 pm
Sat July 1	Laval @ OTTAWA	4:00 pm
Sat July 15	OTTAWA @ Laval	7:30 pm
Sun July 23	New Hampshire @ OTTAWA	2:00 pm
Sun July 30	OTTAWA @ New Jersey LS	5:00 pm

All FURY home games are played at Keith Harris Stadium



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Team Doctor:

Dr. Renata Frankovich

B.Math, MD, CCFP, Dip.

Therapists:

Dave Foley

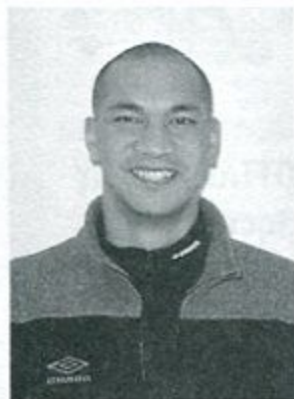
Wendy Hofmann

Editor: David Kent

Design: ALDI

Printing: Carleton University
Graphic Services

Coaching Staff



Andy Nera:

- Played Ottawa Royals 1985 to 1999
- Played Petro Canada League 1983 to 1985
- Played Carleton University 1985 to 1989
 - Captain 1989
- Coach South Nepean United Spirits 1997 to 1999
 - Ontario Champions 1997/1998/1999
 - Canadian Champions 1997/1998
 - Bronze Medal @ Canadians 1999
- Coach Carleton University Womens Team 2000
- Coach Ottawa Fury Women's Elite Soccer 2000



Dominic Rochon:

Playing experience:

- FC Servette Youth (Switzerland)
- Lynwood and later Nepean City (Youth in Ottawa) played in Quebec Major League and NSL - Top scorer in NSL 1990
- River Plate Youth Team (Argentina)
- Ottawa Royals (Senior in Ottawa)

Coaching experience:

- Basically Youth teams and Youth camps in the Ottawa region.

Paolo Tuscano:

- Played for Nepean Hotspurs - 1981-83
- Ottawa Royals Men - 1985 - 92
- Laurentian University Mens Soccer - 1985-90
 - Laurentian U. Mens Soccer Captain - 1988-90
 - OUAA winners - 1985 and 1989
 - OUAA/CIAU All star - 1987-90
- Coach West Ottawa U-13 - 1993-95
- South Ottawa U-16 - 1996
- Goalkeeper Trainer Carleton U. - 1994-1996
- Nepean United Spirit - 1997- 1999
- President of Ottawa Juventus S.C. 'Gaetano Scirea' 1998 - present



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For further information on Carleton University and the program, contact:

Andy Nera, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

Tel: 613-520-4480

Fax: 613-520-4466

Email: big-star@sympatico.ca



Player: Kristina Kiss
Born: 13/02/81
Height: 5'4"
Position: Forward/
Midfielder
Club: Nepean United
Spirits
School: University of
Oklahoma
Won a national club
championship with the
Nepean United Spirits in
1997 and 1998 ... Played
for the Ontario U-19 and
U-17 teams. Member of
the Canadian National
Women's program.



Player: Ayana Nurse
Born: 21/09/78
Height: 5'3"
Position: Forward/
Midfielder
Club: Saltfleet Proto
School: University of
Ottawa
Was a member of Univer-
sity of Ottawa silver
medallist at CIAU champi-
onship in 1997. In 1999
with University of Ottawa
was an OUA Eastern
conference All-Star.



Player: Danielle Vella
Born: 21/01/74
Height: 5'4"
Position: Midfielder
Club: Nepean United
Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa
Won a national champion-
ship at the University of
Ottawa in 1996 ... Won a
national club champion-
ship with the Nepean
United Spirits in 1997 and
1998. Member of the
Canadian National
Women's program from
1999



Player: Mandy Sabiston
Born: 09/04/76
Height: 5'5"
Position: Defender
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa
Won a national champion-
ship at the University of
Ottawa in 1996 and won a
national club champion-
ship with the Nepean
United Spirits in 1997 and
1998.



Player: Tania Singfield
Born: 02/09/70
Height: 5' 7"
Position: Goalkeeper
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa
Won a national champion-
ship at the University of
Ottawa in 1996 ... Won a
national club champion-
ship with the Nepean
United Spirits in 1997 and
1998. Member of the
Canadian National
Women's program 1990-
1997.



Player: Keri Hoffman
Born: 17/01/78
Height: 5'4"
Position: Defender
Club: Nepean United
School: University of
Ottawa
Won a national champion-
ship at the University of
Ottawa in 1996, and silver
medal in 1997.



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Player: Joanna Hackett
 Born: 12/06/77
 Height: 5'8"
 Position: Forward/ Defender
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: Queens University
 Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998 ... Played for the Ontario U-17 team.



Player: Jennifer Biondi
 Born: 13/10/77
 Height: 5'9"
 Position: Forward
 Club: Laval Dynamite
 School: University of Ottawa
 Won a national club championship with Lakeshore in 1996..Played with Quebec U-19 team at Canada Games in 1997.



Player: Eva Melamed
 Born: 10/04/79
 Height: 5' 6"
 Position: Forward
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: McGill University
 Won a Quebec championship at the McGill University in 1999 ... Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998



Player: Asta Wallace
 Born: 28/08/80
 Height: 5'7"
 Position: Goalkeeper
 Club: Ottawa Falcons
 School: Carleton University
 Won second team All-Canadian in 1999, and OUAA rookie of the year while playing with the Carleton University Ravens.



Player: Mary Love Joy
 Born: 08/03/79
 Height: 5'3"
 Position: Midfielder
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: University of Ottawa
 Won OUA championship with University of Ottawa in 1999..Rookie of the year honors at the University in 1998. Member of Bronze medallist Nepean United Spirits at Canadian championship in 1999



Player: Tegan Phillips
 Born: 09/09/79
 Height: 5' 6"
 Position: Midfielder
 Club: South Nepean United
 School: Detroit Mercy (Div. I)
 Won All- American rookie team in the Midwestern collegiate conference in 1998..In 1999 was MVP in Loyola tournament.



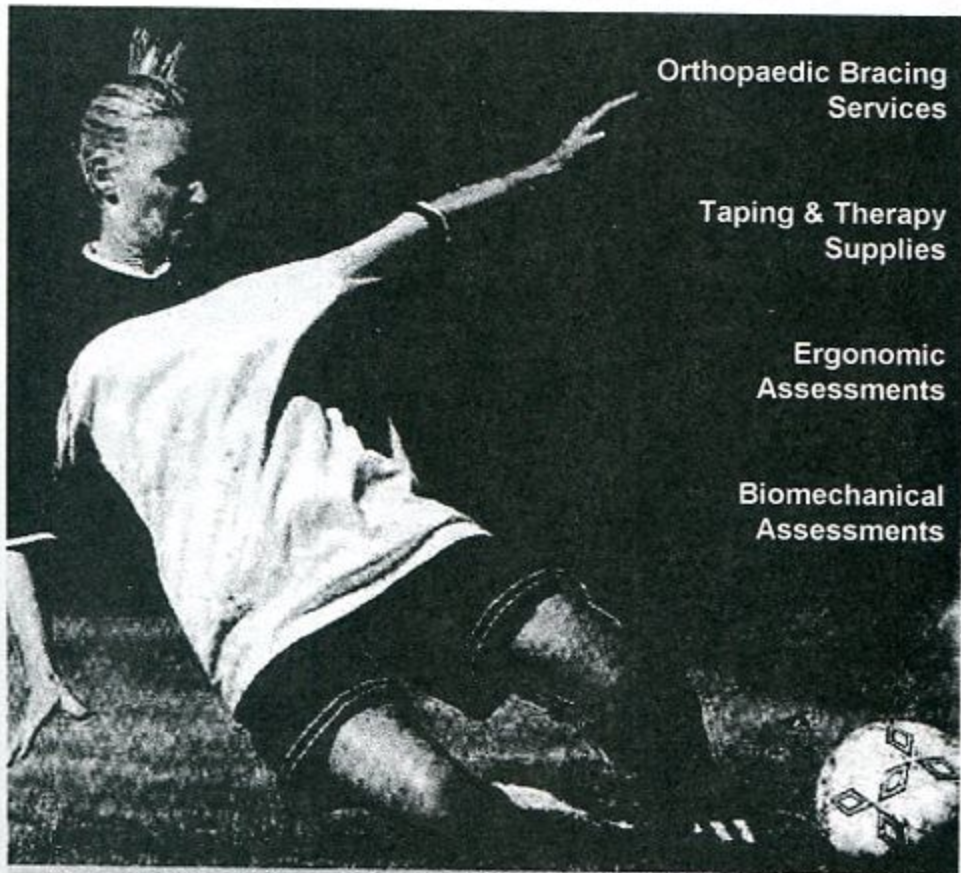
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Player: Noel Trepanier
Born: 30/11/74
Height: 5' 3"
Position: Defender
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa

Won a national championship at the University of Ottawa in 1996 ... Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998.



Player: Julie Madore
Born: 04/08/72
Height: 5' 4"
Position: Midfielder
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa

Won a national championship at the University of Ottawa in 1996 ... Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998.



Player: Christa Alexander
Born: 19/03/77
Height: 5' 7"
Position: Defender
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa

Won a national championship at the University of Ottawa in 1996 ... Won OUA championship with University of Ottawa in 1999. Member of Bronze medallist Nepean United Spirits at Canadian championship in 1999



Player: Julie Gareau
Born: 05/01/74
Height: 5' 4"
Position: Midfielder/
Forward
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa

Won a national championship at the University of Ottawa in 1996 and won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998.



Player: Libby Starnes
Born: 08/11/79
Height: 5' 5"
Position: Defender
Club: South Nepean
United
School: Algonquin
College

Won Silver Medal in Ontario Cup final in 1998 with Nepean United. Played with the U16 provincial program.

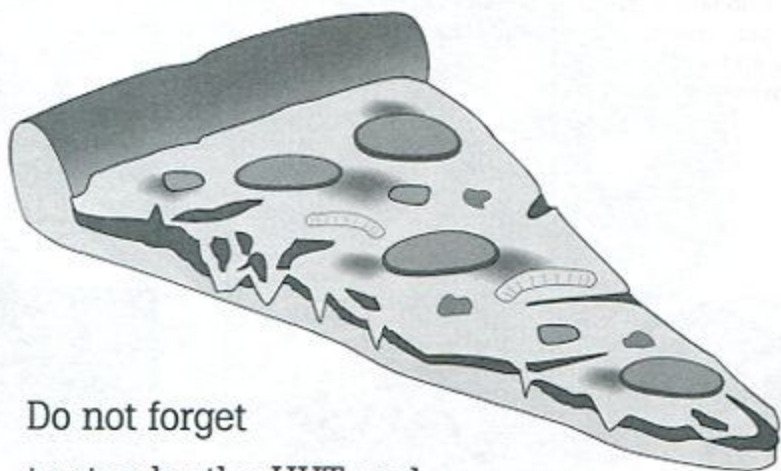


Player: Brigitte Bernier
Born: 19/03/78
Height: 5' 4"
Position: Defender
Club: South Nepean
United Spirits
School: University of
Ottawa

Member of the Quebec team 1994-1997. Silver medalist at CIAU national championship with the University of Ottawa in 1997. Silver medalist at the Canada Games with the Quebec provincial team in 1997. Won the national club championship with Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998.

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Player: Cecily Clarke
 Born: 26/03/80
 Height: 5' 5"
 Position: Defender
 Club: Ottawa Falcons
 School: Queens University
 Won Silver Medal in Ontario Cup final in 1998 with Nepean United.
 Played with the U17 & U18 provincial program.



Player: Stacy Malloch
 Born: 29/08/80
 Height: 5' 11"
 Position: Forward
 Club: Ottawa Falcons
 School: Queens University
 Won Silver Medal in Ontario Cup final in 1998 with Nepean United.



Player: Amanda Shaw
 Born: 09/07/72
 Height: 5' 6"
 Position: Midfielder
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: McGill University
 Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998. Won the QUAA with McGill University in 1998. Played with the Nova Scotia Canada Games team in 1993.



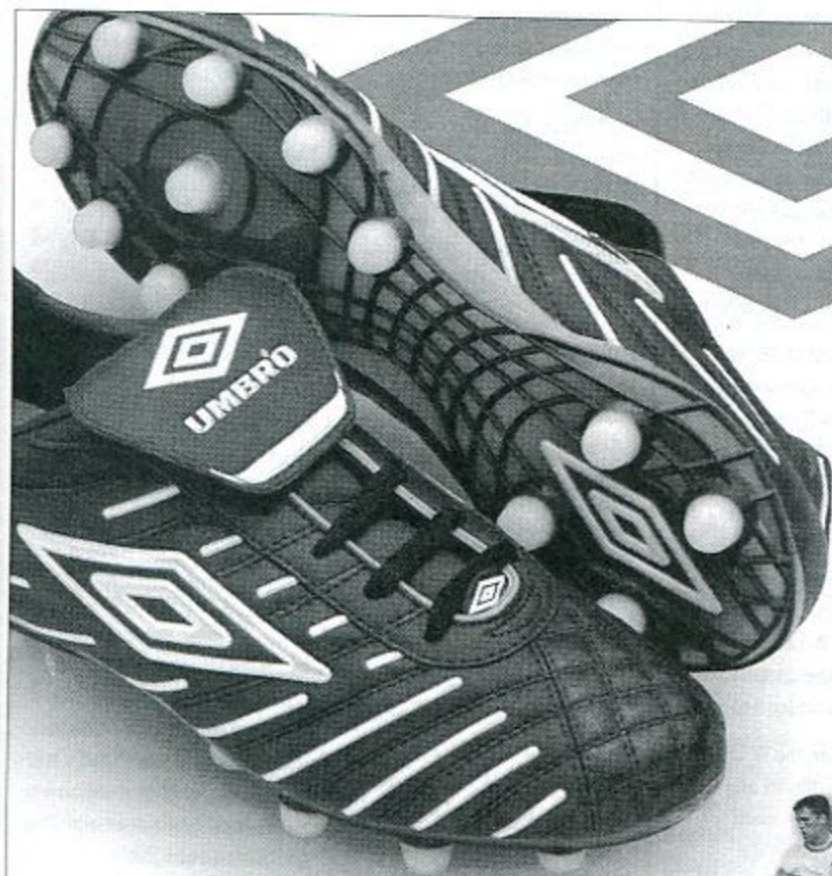
Player: Melanie Beulieu
 Born: 04/09/79
 Height: 5' 4"
 Position: Midfielder
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: University of Tulsa
 Won a national club championship with the Nepean United Spirits in 1997 and 1998. Played on the Ontario U17 & U19 Canada Games team.



Player: Myszka Paprocki
 Born: 02/02/80
 Height: 5' 10"
 Position: Defender
 Club: South Nepean United Spirits
 School: Oklahoma State University
 Member of the Big 12 Conference All-academic team in 1998. Played on the Ontario U17 provincial program



Player: Jessica Hussey
 Born: 02/08/83
 Height: 5' 10"
 Position: Goalkeeper
 Club: Kanata
 School: Holy Trinity High School
 Current Member of the Ontario provincial program since 1998



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W-League: The Planet's Premier Domestic League

With the formation of a national women's professional league on the horizon, all eyes will be on the W-League in 2000. Entering its sixth season of operation, the W-League remains the country's only soccer league for female players. Classified as an "open" league, the W-League allows college, amateur and youth players to play alongside professionals at a high level.

A combined total of 36 teams, the most in the six-year history of the league, will compete in the W-1 and W-2 leagues in 2000. With several former W-League players representing the United States in last year's Women's World Cup, United Soccer Leagues can make the claim that the W-League is the most competitive domestic league in the world.

"With each year, the W-League gains more credibility and acceptance as the senior women's program in the country," said USL President Francisco Marcos. "The number of W-League players who have been called into the National Pool prove that we're on the right track in doing our share to develop the best women's players in the country."

In 1999, the Raleigh Wings became the first W-League team to ever repeat as champions when they battled back from two goals down to sneak past the previously undefeated Chicago Cobras in a shootout. The 3-2

victory capped a 13-1 regular season and gave the Wings an all-time record, including postseason games, of 33-1 in their two-year history.

The Cobras, featuring Canadian International Charmaine Hooper and W-1 Most Valuable Player and Goalkeeper of the Year Danielle Dion, were attempting to duplicate Raleigh's perfect 17-0 season of '98, after racing through their regular season schedule with 14 straight victories, outscoring opponents 54-4.

But, former National Team forward Wendy Gebauer cut a 2-0 deficit in half just before the intermission and current U.S. forward Cindy Parlow equalized for the Wings midway through the second half. Megan Jeidy's sixth-round shootout attempt was successful and Raleigh goalkeeper Siri Mullinix stopped Chicago's Courtney Linx to return the W-1 Championship to North Carolina.

The W-1 League also saw successful expansion into Canada in 1999 as franchises in Toronto and Laval joined the league. The addition of the Ottawa Fury in 2000 brings W-League membership north of the border to three.

The Fort Collins Force also joined W-1 after winning the inaugural W-2 Championship in 1998. The 1999 W-2 Champion North Texas Heat will follow suit, joining the Western Conference

of W-1 in 2000. The Heat compiled an 8-2 regular season, then swept through the playoffs with three straight victories to win the 1999 W-2 Championship.

The Heat, the first USL team to be owned by a state soccer association, battled the host Springfield Sirens in the final that stood at 1-1 until halftime, after the teams exchanged strikes early in the game.

But, 10 minutes into the second half, North Texas broke the game open with four goals in 18 minutes, including a pair by Kim Brown and the 55th minute game-winner by the game's Most Valuable Player, Nikki Tompkins.

North Texas' victory put a damper on the championship weekend in Springfield, Mass., which attracted more than 5,500 fans for the two-day event, including a championship game crowd of 3,282.

The Sirens were named the W-2 Organization of the Year in 1999 after putting together a tremendous inaugural season in which they were a hit both on the field, where they were 9-3 during the regular season, and off the field, where they drew an average of 1,391 fans.

League-wide attendance increased for the fifth consecutive season as a total of 88,634 fans passed through the gates at W-1 and W-2 games in 1999.

With expansion franchises in Ottawa, Oklahoma, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Colorado, Kentucky and New Brunswick set to compete in the W-League, USL hopes the 2000 W-League total attendance figure will exceed 100,000.

The W-League will take a step toward playing the "traditional" game of soccer as it will allow games to end in ties in 2000 and the official time will be kept by the referee on the field.

The team that wins the W-2 National Championship has the opportunity to be considered for promotion to W-1. This concept, which was adopted by USL in 1998 and has allowed for the advancement of both Fort Collins and North Texas over the past two seasons, adds an element of excitement in that local fans can follow their team in its attempt to advance to the next level. Consideration for promotion is given providing the team meets the league's criteria for stadium size and facilities, plus other financial and organizational requirements.

W-1 teams will again play a 14-game regular season schedule, while W-2 teams will play 12 games. Each team will receive a bye weekend during the season in order to allow players to participate in the United States Amateur Soccer Association Regional Tournament. With offseason realignment shaping each league into four conferences, regular season games will take on added importance

as only the four conference champions will advance to the final four tournament.

Both W-1 and W-2 will kick off the 2000 season during the first weekend of May and both seasons will conclude in late July. The W-2 National Championship game is slated for Aug. 6, while the W-1 National Championship is scheduled for Aug. 13. The host sites for both games will be determined at a later date.

The teams featured in today's exciting league match are affiliated with United Soccer Leagues, the largest system of national soccer leagues in the United States. More than a million persons attended USL games in each of the past five years, part of a growing legion of fans that want to see the country's rising stars play soccer.

Founded in 1986, United Soccer Leagues enters the 21st century with 127 teams in five leagues. The system provides the starting point for players who aspire to play at the highest level. Top male players are able to follow a pipeline that eventually leads to Major League Soccer, playing for a foreign club, or even being called up to the national team. Top female players gain exposure by competing in the world's most competitive domestic league. Entering its sixth season in 2000, the W-League has produced several future candidates for the national team.

The phrase "Building the Foundation for the Future" refers to USL's commitment to developing the pyramid structure for soccer in America. In recent years, the league system has served as a platform for players who want to proceed to the highest level - Major League Soccer. With the 1999 addition of the Super Y-League, USL has created an environment where young players can work their way from their hometown soccer fields all the way to the top.

With Major League Soccer at the peak, the support structure of the pyramid is USL, the second largest organization of national sports leagues in the nation -- second only to Minor League Baseball.

The A-League, classified by U.S. Soccer, the sport's national governing body, as a Division II professional league, includes 25 teams, 22 in various-sized markets throughout the United States and three in Canada, where the league is classified as Division I.

One step below the A-League is the D3 Pro League which, as its name implies, is classified by U.S. Soccer as a Division III league. With 22 teams set to compete in 1999, the D3 Pro League is the first taste of professional soccer for many players.

The Premier Development League (PDL), one level below the D3 Pro League, is the largest national developmental league

in the United States, featuring collegiate, amateur and some professional players. The 2000 season will mark the league's first step in its evolution toward a U23 development league. The first phase will begin with a newly-imposed limit of eight players over the age of 23 on each club's 26-player master roster.

United Soccer Leagues also operates the W-League, the nation's only national soccer league for women. The W-League has benefited from the success of the U.S. Women's National Team in the 1999 Women's World Cup. Seven new franchises will take the field in 2000 as more and more people want to bring women's soccer to their area. The expansion brings the total number of teams in the W-1 and W-2 leagues combined to a total of 36, the most in the league's six-year history.

The Super Y-League, USL's newest project, represents the final and most important building block of the USL support structure for the game in the United States. The Y-League will add U16 boys and girls divisions in 2000 after debuting with U14 and U15 boys leagues last season.

Ultimately, the Super Y-League will provide elite competition for youths 14 through 18 years of age, who compete on a national basis during summer months. Some Y-League teams will be

supported by and/or affiliated to USL's national network of affiliated clubs.

USL's history began with the I-League, then known as the Southwest Indoor Soccer League, in 1986. The indoor league serves as an outlet for USL players during the winter months. Although idle for the past two seasons, USL hopes to rejuvenate the I-League for the 2000-01 season.

United Soccer Leagues first went outdoors in 1989, but indoor members still outnumbered the outdoor teams 18-17 in 1991. The number of outdoor teams first surpassed the indoor teams in 1992, when there were 21 outdoor clubs. A growth explosion followed, with 43 outdoor teams in 1993, 72 in 1994, 96 in 1995, when the league was split into professional and amateur divisions and the W-League was introduced for women. The league grew to 106 teams in 1996 (when there were three men's outdoor leagues) and 125 teams in 1997 and 135 teams in 1998.

Umbro, the international soccer company, founded in 1924, is the proud sponsor and official supplier to all leagues within the USL system. Umbro was instrumental in bringing together the USL and the A-League for their successful merger between the 1996 and 1997 seasons.

W-1 LEAGUE

Laval
Ottawa
Rochester
Toronto

Boston
Long Island
Maryland
NJ Lady Stallions

Chicago
Denver
Ft. Collins
North Texas

Hampton Roads
Jacksonville
Raleigh
Tampa Bay

W-2 LEAGUE
New Brunswick
New Jersey
New York
Rhode Island
Springfield

Cincinnati
Cleveland
Indiana
Kentucky
Rockford

Atlanta
Charlotte
Delaware
Northern Virginia
Piedmont

Austin
Colorado
Houston
Oklahoma

A-League: Last Stop on the Road to the Top

Several success stories emerged from the A-League, the final stop on the road to Major League Soccer, in 1999. From the Minnesota Thunder finally winning the big prize in their fourth trip to the final to the Atlanta Silverbacks marking their turn-around with an opening-day crowd of 8,613 to the expansion Pittsburgh Riverhounds, who earned a playoff spot on the field and off the field finished third in the league in attendance.

But, easily the biggest story to come out of the Division II league in '99 was the mighty Rochester Raging Rhinos winning the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. The Rhinos knocked off four MLS opponents on the way to the title, the first for a second division team since MLS began participating in the cup in 1996.

Rochester began its run innocently enough, needing overtime to knock off the Premier Development League's New York Freedoms, 2-1, in the Second Round. The Rhinos then ousted defending Open Cup champion Chicago, Dallas and Columbus in succession to reach the final.

With the stage set for a major upset and a national television audience watching, the Rhinos' Doug Miller scored first, tucking in a 6-yard left-footer in the 65th minute, just four minutes after stepping on the field. Yari

Allnutt's 90th minute strike clinched the 2-0 victory.

The Rhinos continued their quest toward building a soccer-specific stadium in the offseason and are awaiting approval for the necessary public funding required to build PaeTec Park, a 20,000-seat facility projected at \$44 million.

Meanwhile, the Charleston Battery beat both Rochester and even MLS' Columbus to the punch, becoming the country's first team to open a privately-financed soccer-specific stadium. Playing before a sell-out crowd of 5,186, the Battery opened Blackbaud Stadium with a 3-0 victory over Atlanta on Apr. 27.

Marcos called the opening of Charleston's stadium and Columbus Crew Stadium, two of the most significant events of the 1999 soccer season.

Following their Open Cup victory, the Rhinos were able to return their focus to the A-League season and their quest of repeating as league champions. However, Rochester met a determined Minnesota Thunder team in the final in a rematch of the '98 championship, which Rochester won, 3-1.

The Thunder, appearing in their fourth USL championship game in six years, had just completed a 22-6 season in which they were beaten only twice in regulation or overtime.

Minnesota rolled through the playoffs, winning five straight games and outscoring opponents 13-2 in the process.

Playing before a home crowd of 9,987, the Thunder sandwiched a pair of goals around the halftime intermission and held on for a 2-1 victory.

The 2000 season will feature a scaled-back A-League and the return of the Montreal Impact, who won the 1994 A-League Championship and three straight regular season titles from 1995-97. The league will also take a step toward playing the "traditional" game of soccer as it will allow games to end in ties and utilize the two-leg, aggregate playoff system.

USL continues to utilize its working agreement with MLS in 2000, which allows for the voluntary exchange of players between the two leagues, with compensation made to USL clubs whose players move up to MLS during the course of a season.



Watch for the live
broadcast of
Ottawa Fury games

May 28 vs Boston
June 23 vs Rochester

D3 Pro League: A Player's First Taste of Pro Soccer

The D3 Pro League, aptly named because it is the only Division III professional league in the United States, was known as the USISL Pro League until the 1997 season. A step below the Division II A-League, the D3 Pro League plays an integral role in the development of professional players and can be compared to the Class AA level of Minor League Baseball.

The 1999 D3 season contained one of USL's most exciting championship games when the Western Mass Pioneers defeated the South Jersey Barons, 2-1, in front of a capacity home crowd.

Playing in front of a club and D3 Pro League final-record crowd of 5,223 at Lusitano Stadium, the Pioneers scored two second half goals and held on for the victory against South Jersey to claim the national championship.

Paul Wright's equalizer and Rob Jachym's game-winner for the Pioneers' came 13 minutes apart early in the second half to catapult Western Mass to the championship in just their second season in the league. Goalkeeper John Voight, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player, held off a late Baron's rally to secure the victory.

The season sweep of Western Mass helped South Jersey win the regular season championship with a 16-2 record and 72 points, just one point ahead of the 15-3 Chico Rooks, in their third USL season.

Chico forward Luis Orellana was named the D3 Pro League's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season. Orellana helped Chico win the Western Conference by leading the league in scoring with 56 points on 24 goals, also a league-high, and eight assists. He also led his team to the final four of the 1999 D3 Pro League playoffs where the Rooks were downed, 4-1, by Western Mass.

The Carolina Dynamo returned to the USL system in '99, compiling a 12-6 record during the regular season and earning a playoff berth. The Dynamo took 1998 off after reaching the A-League Championship Game in 1997.

In 2000, two more franchises with high expectations join the league. The Utah Blitz and Riverside County Elite will compete in the six-team Western Conference.

The Blitz joins the clan of professional sports teams in the Salt Lake City area with the characteristic double 'z' in the

nickname and become the first USL team in the state, while the Elite are owned by the San Diego Soccer Development Corporation, which also owns the San Diego Flash of the A-League.

The team that wins the D3 Pro League National Championship has the opportunity to be considered for promotion to the A-League. This concept, which was adopted by USL in 1998, adds an element of excitement in that local fans can follow their team in its attempt to advance to the next level. Consideration for promotion is given providing the team meets the Division II professional criteria for stadium size and facilities, plus other financial and organizational requirements.

The D3 Pro League will take a step toward playing the "traditional" game of soccer as it will allow games to end in ties in 2000 and the official time will be kept by the referee on the field.

As part of the working agreement between Major League Soccer and USL, D3 teams are official affiliates of MLS clubs. Teams will play 18 league games and four Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup qualifying games in 2000. The season kicks off on Apr. 8 and concludes with the D3 Pro League Championship Game tentatively scheduled for Sept. 9.

PDL: Pro Soccer's Only True Developmental League

Heading into its 12th season in 2000, the Premier Development League will take a step back to its beginnings. Although the goal of the PDL has always been to provide a stage where amateur players, including those still in college, can fine tune and develop their skills for future participation at the professional level, the league approved a formal plan in the offseason to move toward making the PDL a true Olympic development league as an Under-23 coalition.

Under the terms of the agreement for the 2000 season, PDL teams will be allowed a maximum of eight players over the age of 23 on the 26-player master roster. The following season, the maximum number of overage players will be decreased to six. Meaning all PDL teams will have up to 18, then 20, players under 23 years of age on their rosters, which will have a dramatic impact on many college-age players.

Much like the role that summer baseball fills in the United States by providing a high level of play for scholastic players during the summer months, the PDL presents a highly-competitive environment that includes competition in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

In 1999, the Mid Michigan Bucks made the most of their opportunity in the Open Cup, advancing all the way to the Third Round and a meeting with the Tampa Bay Mutiny.

In league play, having won the D3 Pro League Championship as the Chicago Sting in 1998, the franchise was searching for its second title in as many seasons. This time against the host of the 1999 PDL-National Championship Tournament Spokane Shadow. Chicago Coach Brett Hall's Sockers relied on a solid defense that allowed just two goals in four postseason contests to knock off Spokane, 3-1, and win the 1999 PDL Championship.

Despite the championship game loss, the tournament was still a success for the Shadow, who drew a franchise-record crowd of 3,843 to Joe Albi Stadium for the final and nearly 8,000 fans for the two-day event.

Following the season, the league's commitment to developing players paid off when 15 former PDL players were selected in the 2000 MLS SuperDraft. A total of 38 players with PDL experience were chosen in the 2000 A-League Draft.

The 2000 season will feature 44 teams in three conferences battling to raise the USL Champions Cup at the PDL National Championship Tournament, which will be played host to by the Mid Michigan Bucks. The league's 453-game schedule kicks off on Apr. 15 and concludes on July 30. The national Championship Tournament will take place at White Pine Stadium during the weekend of Aug. 11-12.



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Super Y-League: American Soccer's Building Block

In 1999, United Soccer Leagues, the development system for soccer in the United States, added the final building block of its own structure, the Super Y-League. The ambitious concept of a national elite youth league simultaneously supports the developmental plan of Project 2010, U.S. Soccer's plan to win the World Cup by the year 2010.

As the foundation for high-level adult developmental soccer in the United States, USL is in a unique position to offer youth soccer as the "first rung of the ladder of opportunity" for players to make the long climb to Major League Soccer. In the past years, most elite-level players were limited to national competition with various state select teams. The Super Y-League attempts to augment high-level youth play with a top-caliber national youth league, featuring top players from all around the USA.

The Super Y-League conducted its first-ever National Finals in August 1999 in Stone Mountain, GA. The inaugural two-month season produced an elite group of four finalists in the U14 and U15 Boys age groups. The co-host Atlanta Fire and Central Jersey Raptide won the U14 and U15 titles, respectively, after each team went 3-0 in its round-robin tournament.

The Riptide opened the tournament in convincing fashion, knocking off tournament-favorite Southern California Youth Soccer Organization (SCYSO), 5-2, on the strength of two goals each from Elio DeFrancesco and Kyle Frankowski.

Central Jersey wrapped up the title with consecutive 3-0 victories against Brooklyn and co-host Stone Mountain and completed a near-perfect season with only one tie in 15 matches. In the final, DeFrancesco added another goal and Chris Leahey chipped

in a goal and one assist on his way to being named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

The Atlanta Fire allowed only one goal in their three victories. The Fire, consisting of 17 Olympic Development Players from Georgia, defeated the Brooklyn Knights, 2-1 in the championship game. Thomas Charowski led Atlanta with three goals, one in each game, while Kyle Helton and Johnathan Leathers each added two goals.


The Super Y-League kicks off its second season in 2000 with U14, U15 and U16 Boys and U16 Girls age groups.

The Super Y-League has achieved "Other Affiliate" status with the United States Soccer Federation, meaning the league is not associated with United States Youth Soccer, therefore youth players can compete with both their Super Y-League team and USYS team in USYS competitions simultaneously.



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